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and syndics in the way they should go. If Professor Murray had by any unhappy chance been appointed to the post, the *Studies in the Odyssey* would have gone through with the same applause with which he greets this book, and his judgment would have been *Tarpa latrante*, indeed, but *dis approbantibus*.

The present volume is composed of eight essays and a little and charming interpretative drama. They find their unity under the book-title through the relation of each to the constant vision of the Hellenic *ἦθος* in its varied spheres of activity. They can be read with keen interest even by one who knows little or nothing of Greek or Latin at first-hand, if he but have an eye to see and a heart to understand. But let him beware: for their sure effect will be to make him eager to emulate old Cato. They will help him to comprehend why ancient Greece yet lives—vividly, gloriously—instead of being, as he may have been inclined to think her, as the dust of our simian forefathers. Mr. Thomson does not make old things live again, like the dead bones in the valley; he but makes us see them as they are, forever deathless in compelling charm and beauty.

His chapters are: "On an Old Map"; "Thucydides"; "Greek Country Life"; "Mother and Daughter" (the little drama, on the finding of Persephone); "Alcestis and Her Hero"; "A Note on Greek Simplicity"; "Lucretius"; "The Springs of Poetry"; "Some Thoughts on Translation." There is also a note on authorities, and a sufficient index. Praised be the author's name for his excellent purpose admirably achieved.

E. T. M.

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*Latin Reader. Nature Study and Easy Stories for Sight Reading during the First Year in Latin.* By A. B. REYNOLDS. New York: D. C. Heath & Co., 1918. Pp. xxiv+349.

The author's aim in this reader is to present to the student, at the very outset of his Latin study, connected paragraphs, made up of words from the usual high school authors, and dealing with subjects with which all high school pupils are more or less familiar. The earlier paragraphs contain readings in nature-study, with such titles as *De Tellure*, *De Sole*, and *De Ventis*. These are followed by a section on "Life in Ancient Italy," in which the pupil is introduced to two schoolboys in ancient Arpinum and follows them in their various activities at school and at play, at home and in travel. The readings are concluded by a story entitled *Arminius Puer Suebus*, in which a little romance is interwoven into a simplified narrative of some of Caesar's campaigns. An appendix contains forms, principles of syntax, and exercises in composition.

From the very nature of the author's aim, the book is based on the inductive method and consequently is not free from the defects which seem to be inherent in that method. Chief among these is a lack of clearness and simplicity. The pupil is plunged into indirect discourse in the first lesson and must pick up his forms piecemeal, and he is burdened with such hypothetical forms as *niguis* (for *nix*) and the development of *fertur* through *fertise*, *fertere*, *fertur*,

which seem to the reviewer to serve no useful purpose in a first-year book. Moreover, in the appendix, where the paradigms ought to make a clear-cut impression on the eye, the clearness is marred by the insertion of syntactical matter.

To offset these defects, however, are some admirable features, such as the use of boldface type in the early lessons to impress upon the pupil various case forms, numerous unusual but useful lists in the appendix, and a clearly worded summary of the commonest principles of syntax.

Typographical errors are very few, the most noticeable being Appolonius, repeated several times.

If the book will help to increase the beginner's power to read Latin instead of merely translating sentences, it is a welcome addition to our textbooks.

ALFRED M. DAME

MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

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## Recent Books

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Foreign books in this list may be obtained from Lemcke & Buechner, 30-32 West 27th St., New York City; G. E. Stechert & Co., 151-55 West 25th St., New York City; F. C. Stechert & Co., 29-35 West 32d St., New York City.

CARUS, P. *Vergil's Prophecy on the Saviour's Birth*. Chicago: Open Court Publishing Co. Pp. 97. Boards, \$0.50.

KERR, A. *The Republic of Plato*. A translation of the ten books. Chicago: C. H. Kerr & Co. Pp. xxxiv+599. \$2.00 net.

NICHOLS, M. *The Epistles of Erasmus*. From his earliest letters to his fifty-third year, arranged in order of time. English translation from his correspondence, with a commentary confirming the chronological arrangement and supplying further biographical matter. 3 vols. Vol. III. New York: Longmans. Pp. xviii+10+472. \$6.50 net.

PETERSEN, W. *The Lyric Songs of the Greeks*. The extant fragments of Sappho, Alcaeus, Anacreon, and the minor Greek monodists, translated into English verse. Boston: Badger. Pp. 192. \$1.50 net.

PLATNAUER, M. *The Life and Reign of the Emperor Lucius Septimius Severus*. New York: Oxford University Press. Pp. vi+221. \$5.40.

REYNOLDS, A. B. *Latin Reader*. Nature-study and easy stories for sight-reading during the first year in Latin. New York: D. C. Heath. 12mo, pp. xxiv+349. \$1.20 net.

SABIN, F. E. *The Relation of Latin to Practical Life*. New edition. Madison, Wis.: F. E. Sabin. Pp. 124. \$1.55.

WYE, THEODORA E. *Primus annus vocabula explicata*. New York: Oxford University Press. Pp. 38. \$0.75.